

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 4-7 are pending. Claims 1-3 are canceled and claims 4-7 are added

New claim 4 recites a ball joint comprising a housing, a ball pin, and a sealing bellows which lies against the housing and the ball pin in order to seal between the housing and the ball. The housing has a cylindrical section with a holding surface against which a sealing surface of the bellow lies. The cylindrical housing section adjoins a curved housing section. The curved housing section has a curved outer surface. The cylindrical housing section and the curved housing section being separated from each other by a step in the housing. None of the prior art discloses or suggests all of the features recited in claim 4. Therefore, claim 4 is allowable. Claim 5, which depends from claim 4, is allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific feature recited therein.

New claim 6 recites a ball joint comprising a housing and a ball pin. The housing and the ball pin are centered on an axis. The ball joint further comprises a sealing bellows which lies against the housing and the ball pin in order to seal between the housing and the ball pin. The housing has a cylindrical holding surface against which a sealing surface of the sealing bellows lies. The cylindrical holding surface is centered on the axis and extends axially. The cylindrical holding surface adjoins a radially outwardly extending step

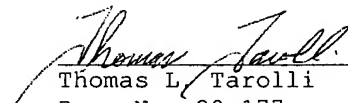
extending from one end of the cylindrical surface and defining a step surface.

The housing has a curved outer surface axially curved radially inwardly from the radially outer end of the step. The step is located between and adjoining the cylindrical surface and the curved outer surface. None of the prior art discloses or suggests all of the features recited in claim 6. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable. Claim 7, which depends from claim 6, is allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific feature recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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